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Fwd: Letter to the Brown Corporation from President Paxson

Email-ID	120339
Date	2014-09-11 17:00:06 UTC
From	tomrothman1@gmail.com
To	lynton, michael

Email Body

[Raw Email](#)

Thought you'd find this interesting in light of the history I told you about. But the plan will still be as I said. I think Maisel and I should have lunch in the next couple weeks so I can speak about her personally. Then I need to know when her ED app is in.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Office of President Christina Paxson <president@brown.edu>

Date: September 11, 2014 at 12:35:13 PM EDT

To: Office of President Christina Paxson <president@brown.edu>

Cc: Vicki Colvin <vicki_colvin@brown.edu>, "Miller, James" <James_S_Miller@brown.edu>, Russell Carey <Russell_Carey@brown.edu>

Subject: Letter to the Brown Corporation from President Paxson

Dear Current and *Emeriti* Members of the Brown Corporation,

Even though we recently welcomed the Class of 2018, the admissions season for the Class of 2019 is underway: applications for early decision are due on November 1. Each year at this time, I send a letter to current and *emeriti* members of the Corporation with my thoughts about their role in admission. The process I outlined for collecting recommendations for applicants has worked well. I am writing now to describe the process for the benefit of new Corporation members, and as a reminder to everyone else.

I want to begin by thanking you in advance for your help with admissions. You serve as public representatives of Brown in your respective communities, and spectacular applicants are often brought to your attention. Given your intimate knowledge of Brown, you are well-positioned to give us thoughtful assessments that improve the quality of the admissions process.

If you learn of an applicant who you think will be an outstanding asset to the Brown community, please let us know as early in the admission cycle as possible. Your letter or email should provide detailed information about the student and his or her background. It is most helpful if you reserve your recommendations for applicants about whom you feel the most strongly. Also, please tell us if you learn of a prospective applicant who may need "special handling" for campus visits or communications (e.g. a student with a parent who is a prominent public figure, or whose family has deep connections to Brown.)

I would like all letters or emails to be sent to Jim Miller in the Office of Admission and copied to Russell Carey in the Corporation office. Russell's office will play a coordinating role, making sure that information gets to the right places within the university. I will personally ensure that the students you recommend get close and careful attention. Of course, you can contact Tom Tisch or me directly, in addition to writing to Jim and Russell. When you recommend a student, you should feel free to tell the applicant's family that you have requested that the application get a close read.

Unfortunately, not all applicants recommended by Corporation members can be accepted. Sometimes the student's record indicates that he or she is unlikely to thrive at Brown. In addition, it damages our reputation with high schools if we accept a

student--sometimes even a very good student—while rejecting more highly-ranked students from the same school. We do this only if there are compelling reasons to do so. As you know, we receive many more highly qualified applicants than we can accept, and our admissions staff does an excellent job making difficult choices. Please respect our decisions, even if they don't always go your way.

Finally, although your role as a representative of Brown means you learn about spectacular candidates, it may also place you in a number of awkward situations. One that requires special attention is when a family mentions a gift to Brown in the context of their child's admission. Even the appearance of linking gifts to admissions poses a serious risk to Brown's reputation. It is important to make it clear that we do not discuss gifts with families if their child is in the applicant pool or intends to apply in the upcoming admission cycle.

Please feel free to write or call me if you have any questions or concerns about your role in admission, and thanks again for your advice and input on specific candidates.

Sincerely,
Chris Paxson